



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2009

File No. 122

Senate Bill No. 860

Senate, March 19, 2009

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. STILLMAN of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FALSE REPRESENTATION OF MILITARY STATUS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 53-378 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (b) Any person who falsely represents himself or herself, orally, [or]
5 in writing [,] or by physical display, to have been awarded any rank,
6 decoration or medal authorized by the United States Congress for the
7 armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or any of the service medals
8 or badges awarded to the members of such armed forces, or the
9 ribbon, button or rosette of any such decoration, medal or badge, or
10 any colorable imitation thereof, shall be fined not less than five
11 hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not
12 more than six months, or both.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	53-378(b)
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VA *Joint Favorable C/R*

PS

PS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Judicial Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal
Correction, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal
Public Safety, Dept.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Municipal Police Departments	See Below	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill expands the circumstances under which violators can be penalized for falsely representing military status to include the physical display of any rank, decoration, or medal authorized by Congress or awarded to members of the armed forces.

It is anticipated that enforcement by state and municipal police officers could be accommodated within the normal course of officers' duties and at no additional cost.

Any revenue from criminal fines imposed under the bill or marginal cost for incarceration and/or probation supervision in the community as a result of the bill would be minimal.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing revenue impact identified above would remain constant into the future as fines are set by statute and require legislative action to be altered. The annualized ongoing cost identified

above would remain into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 860*****AN ACT CONCERNING FALSE REPRESENTATION OF MILITARY STATUS.*****SUMMARY:**

Under current law, it is illegal to falsely claim, orally or in writing, to have been awarded any Congressional medal or decoration; armed forces service medal or badge; or ribbon, button, rosette, or “colorable imitation” of any such award. This bill also makes it illegal to falsely claim (1) by physical display to have received any of the above awards or (2) orally, in writing, or by physical display to have been awarded any rank authorized by Congress for the armed forces.

The bill subjects violators to the existing penalty for a violation of the current law: a fine of \$500 to \$1,000, imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 10 Nay 0 (02/26/2009)

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/05/2009)